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# THE PRACTICE

OF

# CHRISTIAN HOLINESS.

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# THE PRACTICE

OF

# CHRISTIAN HOLINESS,

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# THE PRACTICE

OF

# CHRISTIAN HOLINESS.

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## SECTION I.

THE practice of Christian holiness enforced from a consideration of the three things promised for us in our baptism: viz.—1. RENUNCIATION OF EVIL.—2. FAITH.—3. OBEDIENCE.

### 1. RENUNCIATION OF EVIL;

*in that we renounce the devil, and all his works;—the pomps and vanity of this wicked world;—and all the sinful lusts of the flesh.*

*that we renounce the devil, and all his works.*

He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. 1 John iii. 8.

Be sober, be vigilant: because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about seeking whom he may devour: whom resist stedfast in the faith. 1 Pet. v. 8, 9.

Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. James iv. 7.

And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. Eph. v. 11.

Lest Satan should get an advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices. 2 Cor. ii. 11.

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt

about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance. Eph. vi. 10—18.

*that we renounce the pomps and vanity of this wicked world.*

Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world: if any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him: for all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 1 John ii. 15, 16.

Christ gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God, and our Father. Gal. i. 4.

*For* ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of Him Who hath called you out of darkness into His marvellous light. 1 Pet. ii. 9.

That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world. Phil. ii. 15.

Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly. 2 Thess. iii. 6.

Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. Avoid it, pass not by it; turn from it, and pass away. Prov. iv. 14, 15.

And be not conformed to this world. Rom. xii. 2.

For what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? 2 Cor. vi. 14.

*that we renounce all the sinful lusts of the flesh.*

Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. John iii. 5, 6.

*And* they that are after the flesh, do mind the things of the flesh: but they that are after the Spirit, the things of the Spirit: for to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace; because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. Rom. viii. 5—8.

For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die; but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. Rom. viii. 13.

*For* the Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust to the day of judgment to be punished; but chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness. 2 Pet. ii. 9, 10.

Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul. 1 Pet. ii. 11.

Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying: but put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof. Rom. xiii. 13, 14.

For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication; that every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour: not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God. 1 Thess. iv. 3—5.

For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto

you, and ye shall be My sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. 2 Cor. vi. 16—18.

Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. 2 Cor. vii. 1.

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. Matt. v. 8.

2. FAITH;

*in that we believe all the articles of the Christian Faith.*

He that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him. Heb. xi. 6.

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved. Acts xvi. 31.

Jesus cried and said, He that believeth on Me, believeth not on Me, but on Him that sent Me. John xii. 44.

Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father; but he that acknowledgeth the Son, hath the Father also. Let that therefore abide in you which ye have heard from the beginning: if that which ye have heard from the

beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father. 1 John ii. 23, 24.

And we have seen, and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. 1 John iv. 14.

In Whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace. Ephes. i. 7.

In Whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in Whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance, until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of His glory. Ephes. i. 13, 14.

*Therefore* let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; for He is faithful that promised. Heb. x. 23.

Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. Jude 3.

Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong. 1 Cor. xvi. 13.

Stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the Gospel. Phil. i. 27.

Continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the Gospel, which ye have heard. Col. i. 23.

Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love, which is in Christ Jesus. 2 Tim. i. 13.

### 3. Obedience;

*in that we keep God's holy will and commandments, and walk in the same all the days of our life.*

This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men. Tit. iii. 8.

*But* what doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? Can faith save him? James ii. 14.

Thou believest that there is one God;

thou dost well; the devils also believe and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? James ii. 19, 20.

For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also. James ii. 26.

Hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 1 John ii. 3, 4.

Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy Name, and in Thy Name have cast out devils, and in Thy Name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity. Matt. vii. 22, 23.

But if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments. Matt. xix. 17.

Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world. James i. 27.

I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you, that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called. Eph. iv. 1.

As He Which hath called you is holy; so be ye holy in all manner of conversation. 1 Pet. i. 15.

Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord. Heb. xii. 14.

For we must all appear before the judgment-seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. 2 Cor. v. 10.

And when the Son of Man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory. Matt. xxv. 31.

Then shall the King say unto them on His right hand, Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was an hungred, and ye gave Me meat; I was thirsty, and ye gave Me drink; I was a stranger, and ye took Me in; naked, and ye clothed Me; I was

sick, and ye visited Me; I was in prison, and ye came unto Me. Matt. xxv. 34—36.

Verily, I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me. Matt. xxv. 40.

God be merciful to me a sinner.

*Our Father, Which art in heaven,* &c.

*Profession of our sincere purpose to live answerably to our baptismal vow.*

O Holy and Eternal Lord God, Who keepest covenant and mercy for them that love Thee, and obey Thy commandments; I heartily thank Thy Divine Majesty for admitting me by baptism into that covenant of grace, which entitles me, through Thy mercy in Christ Jesus our Lord, to such glorious privileges: and I solemnly purpose, with Thy grace and assistance, to perform the vows then made in my behalf; and which I have so often renewed, and ratified with my own mouth at Thy holy table.

I seriously resolve, to the utmost of the power Thou givest me, to avoid all

sin, and to resist all the temptations of the devil, the world, and the flesh:—I do unfeignedly believe, and will by Thy help continue in the belief of all the articles of the Christian faith:—and I stedfastly purpose, through the help of Thy grace, to keep Thy holy will and commandments in all sincerity and godly simplicity of heart, and to walk in the same all the days of my life.

*Prayer for grace to fulfil the solemn promises we made at our baptism.*

O MOST gracious God, Who workest in us both to will and to do of Thy good pleasure, vouchsafe to me, I beseech Thee, such a measure of Thy grace, as may enable me to fulfil these holy purposes, and to walk worthy of that blessed state whereunto Thou hast called me.

Grant that I, being regenerate and made Thy child by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by the Holy Spirit, and may give all diligence to eschew those things that are contrary to my profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same.

Grant me perfectly to know Thy Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life; that being established in the truth of Thy holy Gospel, I may give up myself obediently to follow Thy holy commandments, and stedfastly walk in the way that leadeth to eternal life.

Grant that I may lean only upon the hope of Thy heavenly grace; and being evermore defended by Thy mighty power, may successfully withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil, and with a pure heart and mind may follow Thee, the only God; and plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may of Thee be mercifully rewarded.

Grant that I may diligently follow the example of my Saviour Christ, and be made like unto Him; that as He died and rose again for me, so I may die unto sin, and rise again unto righteousness; and that continually mortifying all my evil and corrupt affections, as I have been made partaker of the death of Thy dear Son, so I may also be partaker of

His resurrection, and finally be an inheritor of Thine everlasting kingdom, through the Same Thy Son Jesus Christ, Who with Thee, and the Holy Ghost, liveth and reigneth One God, world without end.

Now the very God of peace sanctify me wholly: And I pray God, my whole spirit, and soul, and body, may be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

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## SECTION II.

The practice of Christian holiness enforced from a consideration of the infinite excellency and perfections of God;—and of the virtues we are obliged to exercise in relation thereto:

1.—*in that God is the maker and preserver, and the supreme governor and disposer of all things.*

O LORD my God, Thou art very great; Thou art clothed with honour and majesty. Psalm civ. 1.

Thou, even Thou, art LORD alone;

Thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein; and Thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven worshippeth Thee. Nehem. ix. 6.

Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty. For all that is in the heaven and in the earth is Thine: Thine is the kingdom, O LORD; and Thou art exalted as head above all.

1 Chron. xxix. 11.

God the LORD *is* He That created the heavens, and stretched them out; He That spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; He That giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein. Isaiah xlii. 5.

O LORD, Thou art our Father: we are the clay, and Thou art our potter; and we all are the work of Thy hand.

Isaiah lxiv. 8.

In Whose hand is the soul of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind. Job xii. 10.

The LORD killeth, and maketh alive;

He bringeth down to the grave, and bringeth up. The LORD maketh poor, and maketh rich; He bringeth low, and lifteth up. 1 Sam. ii. 6, 7.

He changeth the times and the seasons; He removeth kings, and setteth up kings; He giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge unto them that know understanding. Dan. ii. 21.

Both riches and honour come of Thee, and Thou reignest over all; and in Thy hand is power and might; and in Thy hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all. 1 Chron. xxix. 12.

*Practical inferences from the foregoing.*

Now, therefore, our God, we thank Thee, and praise Thy glorious Name. 1 Chron. xxix. 13.

Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory, and honour, and power; for Thou hast created all things, and for Thy pleasure they are and were created. Rev. iv. 11.

The LORD is high above all nations, and His glory above the heavens. Who is like unto the LORD our God, Who dwelleth on high, Who humbleth Him-

self to behold the things that are in heaven, and in the earth! Psalm cxiii. 4—6.

Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help; whose hope is in the LORD his God; Which made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that therein is; Which keepeth truth for ever. Psalm cxlvi. 5, 6.

Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land; and verily thou shalt be fed. Delight thyself also in the LORD; and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the LORD: trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass. Psalm xxxvii. 3—5.

In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths. Prov. iii. 6.

Casting all your care upon Him, for He careth for you. 1 Pet. v. 7.

2.—*in that God is eternal and almighty.*

O LORD God of Israel, Which dwellest between the cherubims. 2 Kings xix. 15.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever Thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God. Psalm xc. 2.

And in Thy hand is there not power and might, so that none is able to withstand Thee? 2 Chron. xx. 6.

I know that Thou canst do every thing, and that no thought of Thine can be hindered. Job xiii. 2, Marg.

*And* with God nothing shall be impossible. Luke i. 37.

Whatsoever the LORD pleased, that did He in heaven, and in earth, in the seas, and in all deep places. Psalm cxxxv. 6.

I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the LORD, Which is, and Which was, and Which is to come, the Almighty. Rev. i. 8.

I, even I, am the LORD; and beside Me there is no Saviour. Isaiah xliii. 11.

Yea, before the day was, I am He; and there is none that can deliver out of My hand: I will work, and who shall let it? Isaiah xliii. 13.

But who is he that saith, and it cometh to pass, when the LORD commandeth it not? Lam. iii. 37.

When He giveth quietness, who then can make trouble? Job xxxiv. 29.

Who hath hardened himself against Him, and hath prospered? Job ix. 4.

*Practical inferences from the foregoing.*

Submit yourselves therefore to God. James iv. 7.

*And* humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time. 1 Pet. v. 6.

Forasmuch as there is none like unto Thee, O LORD, Thou art great, and Thy Name is great in might; who would not fear Thee, O King of nations? for to Thee doth it appertain. Jer. x. 6, 7.

Thou, even Thou, art to be feared; and who may stand in Thy sight when Thou art angry? Psalm lxxvi. 7.

Trust ye in the LORD for ever; for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength. Isaiah xxvi. 4.

Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might. Eph. vi. 10.

In God have I put my trust; I will not be afraid what man can do unto me. Psalm lvi. 11.

If God be for us, who can be against us? Rom. viii. 31.

Blessed be the LORD God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting: and let all the people say, Amen. Psalm cvi. 48.

Now unto the King Eternal, Immortal, Invisible, the Only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen. 1 Tim. i. 17.

3.—*in that God is every where present, and knoweth all things.*

Great is our LORD, and great is His power; yea, and His wisdom is infinite. Psalm cxlvii. 5.

He revealeth the deep and secret things: He knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with Him. Dan. ii. 22.

Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in His sight; but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of Him with Whom we have to do. Heb. iv. 13.

O LORD, Thou hast searched me out, and known me: Thou knowest my down-sitting, and mine up-rising: Thou understandest my thoughts long before. Thou art about my path, and about my bed; and spiest out all my ways. For

there is not a word in my tongue, but Thou, O LORD, knowest it altogether.

Psalm cxxxix. 1—4.

Am I a God at hand, saith the LORD, and not a God afar off? Can any hide himself in secret places, that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD. Jer. xxiii. 23, 24.

The LORD looketh from heaven: He beholdeth all the sons of men. From the place of His habitation He looketh upon all the inhabitants of the earth. He fashioneth their hearts alike; He considereth all their works. Psalm xxxiii. 13—15.

For the ways of man are before the eyes of the LORD: and He pondereth all his goings. Prov. v. 21.

The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.

Prov. xv. 3.

Hell and destruction are before the LORD; how much more then the hearts of the children of men? Prov. xv. 11.

*Practical inferences from the foregoing.*

Know thou the God of thy father, and

serve Him with a perfect heart, and with a willing mind; for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts. 1 Chron. xxviii. 9.

Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his days be prolonged; yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before Him: but it shall not be well with the wicked. Eccl. viii. 12, 13.

*For* the LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon Him: to all that call upon Him in truth. Psalm cxlv. 18.

I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands. 1 Tim. ii. 8.

Pray to thy Father Which is in secret; and thy Father Which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. Matt. vi. 6.

Blessed be the Name of God for ever and ever; for wisdom and might are His. Dan. ii. 20.

O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out! Rom. xi. 33.

To the Only wise God our Saviour, be

glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Jude 25.

4.—*in that God is most pure and holy, most just and righteous, most true and faithful.*

The LORD is righteous in all His ways, and holy in all His works. Psalm cxlv. 17.

There is none holy as the LORD. 1 Sam. ii. 2.

Behold He putteth no trust in His saints; yea, the heavens are not clean in His sight. Job xv. 15.

Surely God will not hear vanity; neither will the Almighty regard it. Job xxxv. 13.

The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD; but the prayer of the upright is His delight. Prov. xv. 8.

Thine eyes are open upon all the ways of the sons of men: to give every one according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings. Jer. xxxii. 19.

Whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord. Eph. vi. 8.

But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done; and there is no respect of persons. Col. iii. 25.

*God* accepteth not the persons of princes, nor regardeth the rich more than the poor; for they are all the work of His hands. Job xxxiv. 19.

All the paths of the LORD are mercy and truth unto such as keep His covenant and His testimonies. Psalm xxvi. 10.

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee; because he trusteth in Thee. Isaiah xxvi. 3.

God is not a man, that He should lie; neither the son of man, that He should repent: hath He said, and shall He not do it? or hath He spoken, and shall He not make it good? Numb. xxiii. 19.

If we believe not, yet He abideth faithful; He cannot deny Himself. 2 Tim. ii. 13.

My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of My lips. Psalm lxxxix. 34.

Heaven and earth shall pass away; but My words shall not pass away. Matt. xxiv. 35.

*Practical inferences from the foregoing.*

Know therefore that the LORD thy God, He is God, the faithful God, Which

keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love Him and keep His commandments, to a thousand generations; and repayeth them that hate Him to their face, to destroy them: He will not be slack to him that hateth Him, He will repay him to his face. Thou shalt therefore keep the commandments, and the statutes, and the judgments, which I command thee this day to do them. Deut. vii. 9—11.

And He will love thee, and bless thee, and multiply thee: He will also bless the fruit of thy womb, and the fruit of thy land, thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep. Deut. vii. 13.

And ye shall be holy; for I am holy, *saith the* LORD. Lev. xi. 44.

And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. Eph. v. 11.

Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith

without wavering: for He is faithful That promised. Heb. x. 22, 23.

Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to Him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator. 1 Pet. iv. 19.

*For* God is faithful, Who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. 1 Cor. x. 13.

5.—*in that God is most gracious, long-suffering, and merciful.*

Who is a God like unto Thee, That pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He retaineth not His anger for ever, because He delighteth in mercy. He will turn again, He will have compassion upon us: He will subdue our iniquities; and Thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea. Micah vii. 18, 19.

As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way

and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel? Ezek. xxxiii. 11.

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness: but is long-suffering to us-ward; not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. 2 Pet. iii. 9.

And therefore will the LORD wait, that He may be gracious unto you; and therefore will He be exalted, that He may have mercy upon you; for the LORD is a God of judgment: blessed are all they that wait for Him. Isaiah xxx. 18.

The LORD is good to all; and His tender mercies are over all His works. Psalm cxlv. 9.

Thus saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the LORD thy God, Which teacheth thee to profit, Which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go. Isaiah xlviii. 17.

Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget; yet will not I forget thee. In

an acceptable time have I heard thee: and in a day of salvation have I helped thee: and I will preserve thee. Isaiah xlix. 15, 8.

*Practical inferences from the foregoing.*

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. Rom. xii. 1.

Knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance. Rom. ii. 4.

O fear the LORD, ye that are His saints; for they that fear Him lack nothing. Psalm xxxiv. 9.

They who seek the LORD shall want no manner of thing that is good. Psalm xxxiv. 10.

We love Him, because He first loved us. 1 John iv. 19.

O give thanks unto the LORD; for He is good, for His mercy endureth for ever. Psalm cvi. 1.

Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful. Luke vi. 36.

And be ye kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even

as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. Eph. iv. 32.

God be merciful to me a sinner.

*Our Father, Which art in heaven,* &c.

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*Prayer for becoming apprehensions of God's power and majesty.*

O MOST glorious Lord God, terrible in Thy judgments, and wonderful in all Thy dealings towards the children of men, possess my soul, I beseech Thee, with awful and becoming apprehensions of Thy Divine Majesty. Give me a sincere contrition for ever having hardened my heart from Thy fear, and provoked that vengeance which can consume me in a moment. Lord, make me to feel and know Whom I ought to dread; and let me never, for the gratification of any sinful inclination, forget any more the Lord my Maker, and incur the displeasure of Him Who is able to cast both soul and body into hell.

And as I implore Thy grace that this consideration of Thy power may be an

effectual check to all my unruly appetites; so, I beseech Thee, let it be my stay and confidence in all dangers and distresses; that forsaking the broken reeds of all worldly succours, I may put my whole trust in Thy mercy; and, evermore serving Thee in holiness and pureness of living, may even in death itself be more than conqueror: through the merits of Thy dear Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Prayer for a lively sense of God's excellency and goodness.*

O MOST blessed and gracious God, the Father of mercies, and fountain of happiness, in Whose presence is fulness of joy, and at Whose right hand are pleasures for evermore, inspire me, I beseech Thee, with such a lively sense of Thine infinite excellency and goodness, and with such a vehement desire of that eternal weight of glory which Thou hast promised to all those that love and obey Thee, as may every day more and more raise and improve my love of Thee, and dispose me more cheerfully to run the

way of Thy commandments, and to be holy in all manner of conversation.

Fix my thoughts, my hopes, and my affections upon heaven and heavenly things. Engage all the powers and faculties of my soul to love and delight in Thee; and to strive to be like Thee in all Thine imitable perfections. Make my heart the seat of prayer, and praise, and holy meditation; and my body a fit temple for the Holy Ghost to dwell in; that being inured to spiritual objects, and continually exercised to godliness, I may be prepared both in body and soul to pass eternity in the contemplation of Thy glorious excellences; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who with Thee, and the Holy Ghost, liveth and reigneth One God, world without end. Amen.

*To* the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; Whom no man hath seen, or can see; to *Him* be honour and power everlasting. Amen. 1 Tim. vi. 15, 16.

## SECTION III.

The practice of Christian holiness enforced from a consideration of the excellency and advantages of the Christian religion:

1.—*in that it contains a clear revelation of all those truths and doctrines that are necessary to be known and believed by us, and of the duties which we are required to practise, in order to our attaining everlasting salvation.*

God, Who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, Whom He hath appointed Heir of all things, by Whom also He made the worlds. Heb. i. 1, 2.

In Him was life; and the life was the light of men. John i. 4.

That was the true Light, that lighteth every man that cometh into the world. John i. 9.

For the law was given by Moses: but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. No man hath seen God at any time: the Only-begotten Son, Which is in the

bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him. John i. 17, 18.

All things are delivered unto Me of My Father; and no man knoweth the Son but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal Him. Matt. xi. 27.

I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by Me. If ye had known Me, ye should have known the Father also; and from henceforth ye know Him, and have seen Him. John xiv. 6, 7.

For he that hath seen Me hath seen the Father. John xiv. 9.

Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his Lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of My Father I have made known unto you. John xv. 15.

Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him: but

God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit. 1 Cor. ii. 9, 10.

Having made known unto us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He hath purposed in Himself. Eph. i. 9.

Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son; in Whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins. Col. i. 13, 14.

For there is one God, and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus; Who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time. 1 Tim. ii. 5, 6.

To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God; that they might receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in *Him*. Acts xxvi. 18.

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind: this is the first and great commandment; and the second

is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. Matt. xxii. 37—40.

Think not that I am come to destroy the law and the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. Matt. v. 17.

For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven. Matt. v. 20.

Love your enemies; bless them that curse you; do good to them that hate you; and pray for them that despitefully use you and persecute you: that ye may be the children of your Father Which is in heaven; for He maketh His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. Matt. v. 44, 45.

Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father Which is in heaven is perfect. Matt. v. 40.

Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of

light. Let us walk honestly as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying: but put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof. Rom. xiii. 12—15.

This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. Gal. v. 16.

Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like; of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.

Gal. v. 19—23.

2.—*in that it assures us of the forgiveness of our sins, and our reconciliation to God through the mediation of His Son our Saviour Jesus Christ.*

Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Matt. xi. 28.

For the Son of Man is come to save that which was lost. Matt. xviii. 11.

This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. 1 Tim. i. 15.

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus; Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood, to declare His righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God. Rom. iii. 23—25.

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Rom. v. 1.

For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. Rom. v. 6.

*And* God commendeth His love toward

us, in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. Rom. v. 8—10.

Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He hath made us accepted in the Beloved; in Whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace; wherein He hath abounded towards us in all wisdom and prudence. Eph. i. 5—8.

These things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: and He is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

1 John ii. 1, 2.

3.—*in that it affords us sufficient power and ability for the performance of our duty.*

Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling: for it is God Which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure. Phil. ii. 12, 13.

With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible. Matt. xix. 26.

*And* God is faithful, Who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. 1 Cor. x. 13.

For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And He said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee, for My strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong. 2 Cor. xii. 8–10.

For God hath not given us the spirit

of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. 2 Tim. i. 7.

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities; for we know not what we should pray for as we ought; but the Spirit Itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Rom. viii. 26.

And such trust have we through Christ to Godward. Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God. 2 Cor. iii. 4, 5.

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ. 2 Cor. x. 3—5.

4.—*in that it gives us the highest assurance of the immortality of our souls, and the judgment of the last day; and of the everlasting rewards and punishments of the world to come.*

Be not afraid of them which kill the

body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will forewarn you Whom ye shall fear: Fear Him Which, after He hath killed, hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear Him. Luke xii. 4, 5.

For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul; or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? For the Son of Man shall come in the glory of His Father with His angels; and then He shall reward every man according to his works. Matt. xvi. 26, 27.

*And* when the Son of Man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory: and before Him shall be gathered all nations; and He shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: and He shall set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on His right hand, Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. Matt. xxv. 31—34.

Then shall He say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from Me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels. Matt. xxv. 41.

And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal. Matt. xxv. 46.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God; and they that hear shall live. For as the Father hath life in Himself; so hath He given to the Son to have life in Himself; and hath given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man. Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation. John v. 25—29.

Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun, in the kingdom of their Father. Matt. xiii. 43.

*But* the Son of Man shall send forth

His angels, and they shall gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; and shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Matt. xiii. 41, 42.

The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of His indignation. Rev. xiv. 10, 11.

The Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto His heavenly kingdom. 2 Tim. iv. 18.

Who hath saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began; but is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, Who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel. 2 Tim. i. 9, 10.

To Whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. 2 Tim. iv. 18.

God be merciful to me a sinner.

*Our Father, Which art in heaven,* &c.

*Thanksgiving for the benefits of the Christian religion; and Prayer that we may walk worthy of the vocation wherewith we are called.*

BLESSED be God, the Father of lights, from Whom every good and perfect gift cometh; Who, by the light of the glorious Gospel of Christ shining into our hearts, hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son; and thereby hath made us partakers of the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and of the love of God, and of the communion of the Holy Ghost. Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him: but God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit. Blessed be God.

I receive, O Lord, with all thankfulness, the manifold testimonies Thou hast given us of Thine incomprehensible love and favour towards us through Thy dearly-beloved Son, in Whom Thou hast reconciled the world unto Thyself. And

most humbly I bow my knees unto Thee, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of Whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that Thou wouldest grant me, according to the riches of Thy glory, to be strengthened with might by the Holy Spirit, in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in my heart by faith; and that I being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the length, and breadth, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge; that I may be filled with all the fulness of God.

Imprint on my heart, O blessed God, I beseech Thee, such a lively sense of the transcendent glory of Thy majesty, and the exceeding riches of Thy grace, as may make me earnestly desirous to have Thine image formed in my soul: and to be partaker of the Divine nature, and to walk worthy of God, Who hath called me unto His kingdom and glory.

O Thou, Who art the Author and Finisher of our faith, pity, I beseech

Thee, the infirmities of Thy servant, and graciously assist my sincere endeavours to withdraw my affections from sensible things, and to raise my mind to a clearer view of the eternal joys of the next world. Vouchsafe, I humbly pray Thee, to enlighten the eyes of my understanding, that I may know more and more what is the hope of Thy heavenly calling, and what the riches of the glory of Thine inheritance in the saints, and what the exceeding greatness of Thy power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of Thy mighty power which wrought in Christ, when Thou didst raise Him from the dead, and set Him at Thine own right hand in the heavenly places. And grant, O gracious Lord, that having this hope, I may purify myself as Thou art pure; and run with patience the race Thou hast set before me: that carrying this testimony with me out of the world, that I have pleased Thee, Thou mayest receive me to Thyself, to be glorified with Thee in Thy heavenly kingdom, and to rejoice before

Thee for ever and ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Now the God of hope fill *me* with all joy and peace in believing, that *I* may abound in hope through the power of the Holy Ghost. Rom. xv. 13.

Giving thanks unto the Father, Who hath made *me* meet to be partaker of the inheritance of the saints in light. Col. i. 12.

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## SECTION IV.

The practice of Christian holiness enforced from a consideration of the peculiar obligation of Christians to holiness of life:

1.—*in that to persuade and oblige us to lead holy and virtuous lives was one great end and design of our Saviour's coming into the world: to the promoting of which not only His doctrines and precepts, but His life and death and resurrection, &c., have a manifest and direct tendency.*

THE grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching

us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ, Who gave Himself for us that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

Tit. ii. 11—14.

Ye are not your own; for ye are bought with a price. Therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's. 1 Cor. vi. 19, 20.

*Christ* died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto Him Who died for them, and rose again. 2 Cor. v. 15.

For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ both died, and rose and revived, that He

might be Lord both of the dead and living. Rom. xiv. 7—9.

Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind; be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: but as He Which hath called you is holy; so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy. And if ye call on the Father, Who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear: forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. 1 Pet. i. 13—19.

Who His own Self bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto

righteousness: by Whose stripes ye were healed. 1 Pet. ii. 24.

*For* Christ also loved the Church, and gave Himself for it; that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word, that He might present it to Himself a glorious Church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. Eph. v. 25—27.

2.—*in that this is what every one of us solemnly engaged to to do at our baptism.*

Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death? Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of His death, we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection: knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. Rom. vi. 3—6.

Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. Rom. vi. 12, 13.

Circumcision verily profiteth, if thou keep the law: but if thou be a breaker of the law, thy circumcision is made uncircumcision. Rom. ii. 25.

For he is not a Jew, that is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh. But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God. Rom. ii. 28, 29.

Even *so* baptism doth also now save us; not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God. 1 Pet. iii. 21.

For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus. Phil. iii. 3.

In Whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: buried with Him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with Him through the faith of the operation of God, Who hath raised Him from the dead. Col. ii. 11, 12.

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Col. iii. 1.

For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. Col. iii. 3.

For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Gal. iii. 27.

And have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: that ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; and be renewed in the spirit of your mind; and that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. Eph. iv. 21. 24.

3.—*in that a holy life is essential to the character of a Christian, and is made a condition of salvation in the Gospel covenant.*

Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the Gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the Gospel. Mark i. 14, 15.

Repent ye, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord. Acts iii. 19.

Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Matt. xviii. 3.

Not every one that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father Which is in heaven. Matt. vii. 21.

If thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments. Matt. xix. 17.

If any man serve Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there shall also My servant be: if any man serve Me, him will My Father honour. John xii 26.

I am the true Vine, and My Father is the husbandman. Every branch in Me that beareth not fruit, He taketh away; and every branch that beareth fruit, He purgeth it, that it may bear more fruit.

John xv. 1, 2.

Herein is My Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be My disciples. John xv. 8.

And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before Him at His coming. 1 John ii. 28.

Whosoever abideth in Him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen Him, neither known Him. Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as He is righteous. He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

1 John iii. 6—8.

In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: who-

soever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother. 1 John iii. 10.

And hereby we do know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth His word, in him verily is the love of God perfected; hereby know we that we are in Him. 1 John ii. 3—6.

4.—*in that without holiness we should be incapable of the happiness designed for pious Christians in heaven.*

Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as He is pure. 1 John iii. 2, 3.

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. Matt. v. 8.

*But* except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is

born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. John iii. 5, 6.

For they that are after the flesh, do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Rom. viii. 5, 6.

Be not deceived, God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. Gal. vi. 7, 8.

5.—*in that disobedience in a Christian is a crime of a more heinous nature, and will be more severely punished in the day of judgment.*

Moses truly said unto the fathers; A Prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; Him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever He shall say unto you. And it shall come to pass, that every soul which will not hear that Prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.

Acts iii. 22, 23.

And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees; therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Matt. iii. 10.

Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you. Matt. xi. 21, 22.

*For* that servant which knew his Lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to His will, shall be beaten with many stripes. But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more. Luke xii. 47, 48.

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness. Rom. i. 18.

Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; how shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard Him; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost? Heb. ii. 1—4.

For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he

was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

Heb. x. 26—29.

God be merciful to me a sinner.

*Our Father, Which art in heaven*, &c.

*Prayer that we may live answerably to the obligations of our Christian profession.*

BLESSED be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who so loved the world that He gave His Only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. And blessed be Jesus Christ the Son of God, and the only Mediator between God and men, Who humbled Himself even to the death of the cross, that we might live through Him, and Who is now set down at the right hand of God, where He ever liveth to make intercession for us.

I beseech Thee, O Lord, that Thou wouldest fit and prepare me more and more for that eternal redemption which our Saviour Christ hath purchased for us. Give me that repentance towards

God, and faith towards our Lord Jesus Christ, by which I may obtain all the benefits of His death and passion: and grant that the grace of God, which bringeth salvation, may effectually teach and persuade me to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, and to live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ, Who gave Himself for us that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify us unto Himself a peculiar people zealous of good works.

Dispose me, O Heavenly Father, so to obey the precepts, that I may inherit the promises of the Gospel. Bless me, O Lord, with all spiritual blessings in Christ. Bless me in forgiving my iniquities: and bless me in turning me from all iniquity. O let the blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God Which taketh away the sins of the world, cleanse me from all sin; and purge my conscience from dead works to serve Thee the Living God.

Give me, O Lord, so to know Christ and His *life*, that the same mind may be in me which was in Christ, and that I may be in the world as He was in the world. Give me so to know Christ and His *death*, that I may feel the virtue and power of the cross of Christ within me, in being crucified to the world and having the world crucified to me, and in crucifying the flesh with the affections and lusts: that the body of sin may be destroyed, and that henceforth I may not serve sin, nor obey it in the lust thereof. Give me also so to know Christ and the power of His *resurrection*, that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, so I also may walk in newness of life, and may mind and seek those things that are above, where Christ sitteth at the right hand of God.

Lord, make me ever mindful that I am not mine own; but am bought with a price, even with the precious blood of Thy beloved Son. And O, that the consideration of this astonishing instance of the Divine love and mercy may so power-

fully affect my heart, that I may be persuaded thereby to glorify Thee in my body and in my spirit, which are Thine; and to live henceforward not unto myself, but unto Him That died for me. While I live, O Lord, I will praise Thy Name: I will sing praises unto my God while I have my being. O let me show forth Thy praise, not only with my lips, but in my life: let me praise and glorify Thee by ordering my conversation aright, by devoting my heart to Thy fear, and by offering up myself a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto Thee, O God, which is my reasonable service.

Now the God of all grace, Who hath called me unto His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, stablish, strengthen, settle me: to Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

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## SECTION V.

The practice of Christian holiness enforced from a consideration of the re-

demption of the world by Jesus Christ; and of His death upon the cross for us; —and of the duty and reward of taking up our cross, and following Him.

1.—*of the redemption of the world by Jesus Christ, and of His death upon the cross for us.*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made. John i. 1—3.

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the Only-begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. John i. 14.

In this was manifested the love of God towards us, because that God sent His Only-begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 1 John iv. 9, 10.

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in

the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. John iii. 14, 15.

And the Son of Man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn Him to death, and shall deliver Him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify Him. Matt. xx. 18, 19.

*And* those things which God before had showed by the mouth of all His prophets, that Christ should suffer, He hath so fulfilled. Acts iii. 18.

And they took Jesus and led Him away. And He bearing His cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha: where they crucified Him, and two other with Him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst. John xix. 16—18.

After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst. Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vine-

gar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to His mouth. When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, He said, It is finished: and He bowed His head, and gave up the ghost. John xix. 28—30.

Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Phil. ii. 5—8.

But He was wounded for our transgressions; He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and He was afflicted; yet He opened not His mouth: He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so He openeth not His mouth. He was taken from

prison, and from judgment; and who shall declare His generation? for He was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of My people was He stricken. And He made His grave with the wicked, and with the rich in His death; because He had done no violence, neither was any deceit in His mouth. Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He hath put Him to grief: when Thou shalt make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. He shall see of the travail of His soul, and shall be satisfied: by His knowledge shall My righteous servant justify many; for He shall bear their iniquities. Therefore will I divide Him a portion with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong; because He hath poured out His soul unto death: and He was numbered with the transgressors: and He bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors. Isa. liii. 5—12.

*Thus* God was in Christ, reconciling

the world unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them. 2 Cor. v. 19.

For He hath made Him to be sin for us, Who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him. 2 Cor. v. 21.

Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth: Who, when He was reviled, reviled not again; when He suffered, He threatened not; but committed Himself to Him That judgeth righteously. 1 Pet. ii. 21—23.

2.—*of the duty and reward of taking up our cross, and following Him.*

Whosoever will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever shall lose his life for My sake and the Gospel's, the same shall save it. For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of

Me and of My words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of Man be ashamed, when He cometh in the glory of His Father with the holy angels. Mark viii. 34—38.

Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: but rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when His glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. If ye be reproached for the Name of Christ, happy are ye; for the Spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you. 1 Pet. iv. 12—14.

We must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God. Acts xiv. 22.

Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. 2 Tim. iii. 12.

Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed. 1 Pet. iv. 16.

For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ. 2 Cor. i. 5.

*And* if we suffer, we shall also reign

with Him; if we deny Him, He also will deny us. 2 Tim. ii. 12.

Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his Lord; if they have persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. John xv. 20.

In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world. John xvi. 33.

He that endureth to the end shall be saved. Matt. x. 22.

Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. Rev. ii. 10.

God be merciful to me a sinner.

*Our Father, Which art in heaven,* &c.

*Prayer for the benefits of Christ's sufferings and death.*

O ETERNAL Son of God, the brightness of Thy Father's glory, and the express image of His person, God blessed for ever, Who to save sinful men wast pleased to become man, and to be all Thy life long a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief, persecuted, and rejected, and at last crucified as a male-

factor; favourably with mercy behold Thy servant whom Thou hast redeemed with Thy most precious blood.

Thou That hast taken away the sins of the world, Who hast abolished and overcome death, and destroyed him that had the power of it, have mercy upon me; and by Thy precious death and passion deliver me from this body of sin and death.

By the merit of Thy most bitter sufferings, by all the love Thou hast shown to the children of men, I humbly beseech Thee, O Lord, look graciously upon me; and intercede for me with the Father, that for Thy sake He may be gracious unto me, and forgive me all my sins, and lift up the light of His countenance upon me.

And grant, O blessed Saviour, that I may always bear in my mind such a devout remembrance and feeling of Thy bitter passion, as may be a powerful protection of my soul against all the assaults of my spiritual adversaries; and may effectually engage me to crucify the flesh with its affections and lusts: and to run with patience the race Thou hast set be-

fore me, evermore looking unto Thee, the Captain of our salvation, Who wast made perfect through suffering; and who for the joy that was set before Thee didst endure the cross, despising the shame, and art now set down on the right hand of the throne of glory.

And I beseech Thee, O blessed Jesus, let the sense of Thy wonderful love in thus dying for my sake, inflame my soul with such an invincible love of Thee, and with such an ardent zeal for Thy glory, that if ever Thy providence should make it my duty, I may be ready cheerfully to embrace even death itself, though armed with the utmost terrors, rather than forsake Thee. Inspire me with courage and resolution from above, that no difficulties or dangers may ever affright me from Thy service; and that no apprehension of them may ever transport me beyond the bounds of Christian decency and moderation. *Lord, whither shall I go? Thou hast the words of eternal life.*

O let the firm belief of the immortal joys and the glorious rewards Thou hast

prepared for those that suffer for Thee, support me under all trials and temptations, that I may be a follower of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises. Make me careful so to *do* Thy holy will, that I may have comfort and joy, if need be, in *suffering* for it. Grant this, O blessed Lord, who didst willingly lay down Thy life for me, and didst rise again from the dead, and now sittest at the right hand of the Father to intercede for all Thy faithful disciples. Amen.

*Now unto* Jesus Christ, Who is the faithful Witness, and the First-begotten of the dead, and the Prince of the kings of the earth; unto Him That loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and His Father; to Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. Rev. i. 5, 6.

And the Lord direct *our* hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ. 2 Thess. iii. 5.

## SECTION VI.

The practice of Christian holiness enforced from a consideration of the duty, and of the reward, of constancy and perseverance in the faith and obedience of the Gospel.

1.—*of the duty of constancy and perseverance in the faith.*

No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God. Luke ix. 62.

If ye continue in My word, then are ye My disciples indeed. John viii. 31.

Whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed. James i. 25.

But if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. Heb. x. 38.

For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein

and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning: for it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.

2 Pet. ii. 20, 21.

Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. Heb. ii. 1.

And we desire that every one of you do show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end: that ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises. Heb. vi. 11, 12.

These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. Heb. xi. 13.

*Some* were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection; and others had trial of cruel

mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment. Heb. xi. 35, 36.

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our Faith; Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him That endured such contradiction of sinners against Himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds. Heb. xii. 1—3.

2.—*of the reward of constancy and perseverance in the faith and obedience of the Gospel.*

And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. Gal. vi. 9.

Being confident of this very thing, that He Which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ. Phil. i. 6.

Who will render to every man according to his deeds; to them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life. Rom. ii. 6, 7.

Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. Heb. x. 35, 36.

Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees. Heb. xii. 12.

Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God. Heb. xii. 15.

Let us therefore fear, lest a promise being left us of entering into His rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. Heb. iv. 1.

Brethren, be followers together of me. Phil. iii. 17.

I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Phil. iii. 13, 14.

Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things ye shall never fall: for so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. 2 Pet. i. 10, 11.

God be merciful to me a sinner.

*Our Father, Which art in heaven,* &c.

*A solemn dedication of ourselves to God: and prayer for grace and perseverance in the faith and obedience of the Gospel.*

O ETERNAL Lord God, heavenly Father, Who desirest not the death of a sinner, but rather that he may turn from his wickedness and live; look down, I humbly beseech Thee, upon me Thy sinful creature, who am ashamed to lift up my face unto Thee, when I consider how miserably I have defaced Thine image in my soul; and how after all my endeavours my nature is still clogged with many unreasonable lusts and passions; how much vanity and impertinence there yet remains in my mind, how much perverseness in my will, how much spi-

ritual and carnal iniquity in my affections and appetites. Lord, I have been long struggling with this body of sin and death; and yet upon all occasions I find myself still too prone to . . . . . O my God, have pity on me; and for Thine infinite mercy's sake, for the sake of Thy dearly beloved Son, in Whom Thou art well-pleased, pardon, I beseech Thee, all my sins and infirmities; and renew me again after Thy likeness in righteousness and true holiness, that I may walk henceforward in newness of life, and with perfect health and vigour of soul may serve and glorify Thee for ever.

I come now before Thee, O Lord, to make a new dedication of myself to Thy service, and to implore the assistance of Thine Almighty grace to enable me to perform my religious vows and engagements. To Thee, O glorious Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Three Persons in one Godhead, I desire to devote myself, my soul and body, and all the powers and faculties of both. I desire utterly to abjure every sinful practice; and I pur-

pose, by Thy gracious assistance, from this time forth for evermore to pay sincere obedience to all Thy commandments. This, O Lord, in the sincerity of my soul, I do here humbly and heartily promise before Thy divine Majesty. O Thou, Who alone workest in us both to will and to do of Thy good pleasure, and Who hast declared that Thou wilt never leave nor forsake those who are truly desirous to serve and please Thee, let Thy Holy Spirit, I beseech Thee, be so powerfully and so continually present with me, that I may faithfully perform what I have solemnly promised. Inspire me more and more with patience and constancy of mind, that I may stand fast in all good resolutions, in despite of every temptation I may meet with to the contrary.

And since I know that Thou art present with me wheresoever I am, and dost always behold me whatsoever I am doing, O do Thou possess my soul with such a lively sense of this important truth, as may be a constant check to all sinful

inclinations, and make me afraid of ever offending Thee, and incessantly careful and solicitous to please Thee.

Let Thy Blessed Spirit be my constant monitor to put me frequently upon the consideration of my ways, and the serious examination of all my actions; that so, whenever I go astray, I may, by a speedy and unfeigned repentance, call my ways specially to remembrance, and turn my feet again to Thy testimonies. And grant, I beseech Thee, that the sense of my past failings may render me more watchful and circumspect for the future; that whereinsoever I shall discover that I have done amiss, I may thenceforth be more strictly upon my guard, and more vigilant against those temptations that have been the occasion of my falling.

Remove from me, I beseech Thee, all unprofitable sadness, inspiring me with an earnest desire and expectation of the blessings which Thou hast promised to all them that with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto Thee; and grant, good Lord, I pray Thee, that having this

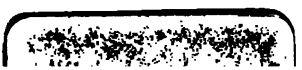
glorious prospect always in mine eye, I may run the way of Thy commandments with delight: and forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, may be still pressing forward toward the mark for the prize of Thy high calling in Christ Jesus.

Finally, that I may be more and more strengthened and confirmed in the good resolutions I have now made, stir me up, I beseech Thee, to a diligent attendance on Thy public ordinances. Let it be a constant delight to me to wait on Thee in the assembly of Thy saints: and give me grace always to come before Thee with awful apprehensions of Thine infinite Majesty; to hear Thy word with reverence and attention; to offer up my prayers and thanksgivings with fervency and devotion; and to approach Thy holy table with that humility, and love, and gratitude, and resignation both of soul and body, which become the solemn remembrance and representation of my dying Saviour's love.

In these things, O Lord, and whatsoever else is needful to secure my perseverance in the faith and obedience of Thy Gospel, and the final salvation of my immortal soul, I humbly beg that Thou wouldst be graciously pleased to assist me, for Jesus Christ's sake; to Whom, with Thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

*Now* God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ[1], *fill me* with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that *I may* walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, unto all patience and long-suffering with joyfulness[2]. Amen.

[1] Col. i. 3. [2] Col. i. 9—11.

THE END.

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